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By Tammy Sapp, originally published 2/24/2012 on the OUTDOORHUB web blog at www.outdoorhub.com

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IHEA At 40

By John McKay, President IHEA • President.IHEA@hotmail.com

The 2012 IHEA conference will be May 29 - June 2 in Kansas City, Missouri. When volunteer Hunter Education instructors, program administrators, NGOs and industry partners from around the world gather in KC they will spend four days engaged in training and informative presentations, schooled in the latest research, engrossed by distinguished guest speakers and generally immersed in all things Hunter Education.

In addition to all the topnotch activities and information offered, participants will be celebrating IHEA’s fortieth year of helping its members develop safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters. Who would have thought what began as an informal get together of hunter safety (as Hunter Education was called back in the day) coordinators in the early 70’s would grow into an organization that strives to continue the heritage of hunting worldwide. And now, with that growth, come questions of how IHEA will look and function in the future.

It seems unlikely those early founding coordinators envisioned a global hunter education organization when they drafted the constitution and by-laws of the North American Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators (NAAHSC), which would become today’s IHEA. Nonetheless, the very same constitution and by-laws, with some revisions, are largely still in effect today as IHEA’s governing documents. As IHEA moves forward, it’s clear the basic structure of IHEA needs updating to account for the differences of how its member agencies and organizations function and deliver Hunter Ed, while also allowing for the continued addition of new international member countries and their programs with equitable “seats at the table.”

In a process that essentially began at the 2011 IHEA conference this past June, the IHEA Executive Board has been debating exactly what a new structure of IHEA should look like while still maintaining as much as possible of the current IHEA and the resulting relationships and cooperation that have been built over the years.

Throughout the board’s discussions we have worked closely with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Canadian Wildlife Director’s Committee (CWDC) whose members are the directors of the government agencies that manage Hunter Education programs across North America and make up 63 of IHEA’s 67 voting members. IHEA has a long history of working with AFWA, and in fact, the NAAHSC was created with the help and blessing of International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (today’s AFWA) when the association was first organized.

The new structural model the IHEA Board, AFWA and CWDC has endorsed makes significant changes to IHEA as we currently know it. The existing IHEA 501(c)3 non-profit organization undergoes a name change and substantial constitution/by-law revisions to become IHEA; included is the creation of a volunteer instructor advisory committee, whose chair sits on the executive board. IHEA Canada (created as a separate affiliate of IHEA in 2001) continues on as a standalone entity with its own board, by-laws and membership dues.

Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of the restructuring is the creation of a new IHEA 501(c)6 international trade organization. This truly international body will be the “umbrella” organization where American, Canadian and international members work collaboratively on issues of mutual interest and benefit with issues such as Hunter Education course standards and reciprocity, movement of hunters and their sporting arms, anti-hunting, etc. potential topics for consideration.

The restructuring project has come a long way, yet much work remains to be done. Over the course of the coming months many of the details will be worked out and questions answered. Watch the Journal or check online at www.ihea.com for more information.

This year’s IHEA conference will be special in a number of ways. 2012 is also the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Act (WSFR), the federal program that collects excise taxes from sportswomen and men and returns it to the states for wildlife conservation, management and education. WSFR and Hunter Education have often been touted as two of the most successful programs of the last century and together, there is no doubt they have created a model for the world to emulate.

40 years is nothing to sneeze at and the staff of IHEA, the Missouri Department of Conservation and other partners are pulling out all the stops to celebrate four decades of progress and accomplishment in Hunter Education. But 2012 will also be a time to look at the future of IHEA and for making decisions of historic proportions and importance; decisions that will be looked back on as those that put the association on a path of continued growth and increased relevance. 2012 could very well be looked back on as the year that truly put the international in IHEA.

Disclaimer: The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal welcomes article submissions expressing individual or organization views and opinions. Articles submitted do not necessarily reflect those of the IHEA, IHEA board of directors, IHEA management, the editor or publisher. The IHEA will continue to support the safety aspect of all hunting activities and methods. In addition, we encourage anyone who wishes to submit a rebuttal to published articles to send them to susiekiefer@msn.com.
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Executive Director’s Comments

Celebrating Hunter Education

By Wayne East, Executive Director IHEA, exdir@ihea.com

This year we are celebrating two very important anniversaries in hunter education. 2012 is the 40th anniversary of the International Hunter Education Association, and is also the 75th anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act.

In 1967 the National Rifle Association (NRA) sponsored the first hunter safety coordinator’s workshop at their annual meeting held in Chicago. These workshops continued until 1986. During the 1971 workshop in Washington, DC, the hunter safety coordinators formed a steering committee to develop a workable plan for creating a formal organization of hunter safety coordinators. In 1972 The International Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators was formed. This name was later changed to the North American Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators, so as to not be confused with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies of whom the NAAHSC would affiliate with. Later the name would change again to the International Hunter Education Association, as we are now known.

During the IHEA’s first 40 years, the organization has accomplished much. A set of minimum content standards has been created and is re-evaluated on an annual basis. These standards allow for reciprocity among member jurisdictions. IHEA also produces an instructor magazine, a student magazine, trains new hunter education coordinators, trains wildlife officers how to investigate hunting incidents in the field, conducts an annual conference with professional development seminars, conducts periodic peer reviews of state hunter education programs, has an online hunter education program, and interacts with the hunting and shooting industry to develop training aids for hunter education.

The IHEA could not have accomplished all of this work without the help of you, the volunteer instructor, and organizations like the NRA, National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act.

In the early 1900s, when many fish and wildlife species were dwindling in numbers or disappearing altogether, the hunting and shooting industries stepped forward to help state fish and wildlife agencies counteract the crisis. Manufacturers supported the use of excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment, and sought legislation to ensure federal funding would be directed to aid agencies in managing and conserving America’s natural resources and providing hunting access. On September 2, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, now called the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. To this day, the Act fosters partnerships between federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, the sporting arms industry, conservation groups and sportsmen and women to benefit wildlife.

Later, anglers and the fishing and boating industries established similar funding strategies through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act) in 1950, and its Wallop-Breaux Boating Trust Fund amendment in 1984. Through this American System of Conservation Funding, more than $12 billion dollars have been entrusted to agencies for fisheries and wildlife restoration and management; hunter, angler and boater access; as well as for hunter and boater safety education.

In 2012, we proudly observe 75 years of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program and the success of the partnerships that have made this program the single most successful conservation effort in history.

You can visit http://wsfi75.com for more information about the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Send Us Your Stories!

One of the main goals of the Journal is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and teaching experience that can help improve the education process of the more than 700,000 new hunters annually.

In order to fulfill that goal we need the input of instructors in the field. Please submit your stories and/or photos about teaching techniques that work for you, thoughts about the state of our hunting heritage today, anecdotal stories about “it happened to me” in class, visual training aids, etc... Don’t worry about spelling or grammar. Every submission that is chosen for print receives a gift from supporting manufacturers.

Send your submission to Susie Kiefer at susiekiefer@msn.com. No computer? You can mail your submission to: IHEA Journal, PO Box 432, Wellington, CO 80549.
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Safe Turkey Hunting Tactics Are Also Best Practices For Bagging A Bird

“You might think you’re stalking a turkey, but you could actually be slipping up on another hunter. You should always adopt a skeptical attitude when you hear turkey calling. Good callers can sound as convincing as actual turkeys.”

—Tom Hughes, NWTF

Those planning to hunt turkeys this spring likely will spend hours practicing their calling, patterning shotguns and assembling gear. Spring turkey hunters should also devote themselves to learning about hunter safety.

“Safe turkey hunting strategies are well worth learning because they’re also tactics that can put you in the best position to take a gobbler,” said Tom Hughes, the National Wild Turkey Federation’s assistant vice president for education and outreach programs.

Running and gunning is a popular style of turkey hunting that consists of moving through the woods while calling. However, Hughes recommends an alternative strategy that will help you be safer and more successful.

“Calling while moving stacks the deck the wrong way. Another hunter could mistake you for a wild turkey,” Hughes said. “Instead, hunters should protect themselves by setting up against a tree taller than their head and wider than their shoulders before they start calling. Doing this also makes you more prepared for a gobbler that shows up more quickly than you expected.”

Visit an online turkey hunting forum and you’ll probably run across turkey hunters who say they like to sneak up on a gobbler, which is a bad idea according to Hughes.

“You might think you’re stalking a turkey, but you could actually be slipping up on another hunter,” Hughes said. “You should always adopt a skeptical attitude when you hear turkey calling. Good callers can sound as convincing as actual turkeys.”

In addition to safety concerns, the odds are against you when it comes to sneaking up on a gobbler. Turkeys have sharp eyesight and hear pretty well, too. You’d be better off setting up and calling a bird to you.

Another safety measure calls for turkey hunters to make a fashion statement. First, hunters should not wear red, white, blue or black, which are colors associated with a gobbler. In addition, while blaze orange provides a measure of safety during Fall, Hughes advises spring turkey hunters to avoid wearing blaze orange.

“Orange is closest to red in the color
spectrum, and it can be mistaken for the red on a gobbler’s head,” Hughes said. “We saw that in Pennsylvania when they still required blaze orange during their spring turkey season. A study revealed that some incidents occurred when hunters shot at something moving that they thought was red, when in fact it was another hunter wearing blaze orange. Another issue related to orange was hunters reported hearing a turkey and seeing movement but no orange, so they shot. Basically, both the presence and absence of blaze orange was a problem during spring turkey season.”

Your best bet when turkey hunting is to wear camouflage or drab greens and browns including undershirts, socks, gloves and a face mask.

Shooting at sounds, color and movement is a big no-no. Hughes recommends that hunters be absolutely certain that what they intend to shoot is a legal turkey.

“Demand multiple points of identification. If you see movement, do you also see the turkey’s beard? Feet and wings? Is it really a turkey? Plus, seeing the gobbler’s eyes is a good indicator that the bird is within range.”

Hughes also recommends being careful when carrying decoys, especially gobbler decoys. Using an earth-tone colored bag to hold the decoy as you move from place to place is a smart safety measure.

The shot shell you choose is another safety factor to consider. Shot size larger than #4 can be more dangerous to other hunters. Plus, it’s unlikely to produce a dense enough pattern for a quick, clean kill. Research shows that #4 to #6 lead shot is best, though some modern alloy loads in #7 have great pattern density and enough downrange energy to kill a gobbler out to 40 yards.

Shot shell technology has improved throughout the years, however, it shouldn’t be taken as an invitation to shoot farther than the recommended 40 yards with any load. If you’re shooting beyond 40 yards, it’s harder to positively identify your target. Plus, there are hunter safety issues associated with long-range shots.

You can learn more about how to stay safe while hunting by taking an online hunter safety course at www.hunter-ed.com. The training offered at this site is approved by the state agencies responsible for hunter education, and it’s the same material that’s taught in the classroom.

Studying at www.hunter-ed.com is free. Those who must be certified before they can buy a hunting license pay a one-time fee, which is due only if they pass the test. Students can take the test as many times as they need to pass it. Online hunter safety courses are available in participating states, so visit hunter-ed.com to take a course specific to your state.

To learn more about defensive turkey hunting tactics, visit the National Wild Turkey Federation’s website at www.nwtf.org/tips_adventures/tips.php?id=11551.
CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOPS: A CRITICAL NEED

By John Solomon, NM Hunter Education Instructor

Above: Workshop participants practice fire starting skills.

They are full of wisdom, tips, hard-earned advice, and insight that you can’t find in books or videos. They have “specialties” such as muzzleloader hunting, traditional archery, handgun marksmanship, first aid, and orienteering. I always come away from a conversation with them as a more knowledgeable hunter and a better Instructor. I know everyone reading this understands and probably has a very similar experience. In fact, a majority of you are the very people I’m referring to. And this is the basis of my proposition: Teach me. Better yet, teach all of your fellow Instructors.

Continuing education for Hunter Education Instructors is not only critical, but also in high demand. We often rely on what we do in the field to shape how we teach and present topics. But let’s face it: we can’t be the master of everything. In fact, there are subjects we just don’t know much about. Together, we can be a jack of all trades as it relates to hunting, and here is how we make it happen: Teach a workshop for Instructors that focuses on what you know how to do really well. I will give you an example.

I was a Survival Instructor in the U.S. Air Force. When I started teaching Hunter Education, I realized that some Instructors were not comfortable talking about the subject of outdoor safety and survival. That isn’t a fault; it’s a reality. Not everyone has been in a situation where they had to save their lives or gut out a challenging emergency afiel. I’m not the most accomplished hunter, but I did have a job that required me to teach people how to survive in the wilderness. So I approached Jennifer Morgan, our state Hunter Education Coordinator, and proposed a one-day workshop on survival skills as they related to our student manual. She helped me develop a lesson plan that met our Department’s standards, put together a slide show, and committed to giving it a try. We advertised it in the Instructor newsletter and
Who knew a bow with 40 lbs of weight adjustment could be this fast, this smooth and this quiet?

Who could’ve imagined getting all that for $299? Our competitors say, it’s crazy. We say, it’s the Craze.”
scheduled a few tentative dates and locations. I am happy to report that the workshop has been running for almost three years now and has reached over 200 of our state’s certified instructors in 9 sessions.

It’s been an amazing experience for me. I’ve met Instructors from across the state and developed relationships that only grow stronger over time. I have found people who can help with classes and likewise I’ve volunteered to help them with theirs. I’ve learned from my “students” at every workshop and found people that have incredible stories to share that are added to the workshop and carry forward the value for the next class.

The hardest part of this process is deciding to do it. I don’t hold a flame to a lot of my workshop students when it comes to hunting experience or success, but that’s not the point. I’m sharing what I know how to do and what I’ve learned the hard way so they don’t have to go through it themselves in order to be better Instructors. That’s the point. You aren’t on the block for criticism, you are there to help. Remember, you are among friends, and they will receive your knowledge with appreciation and respect. That’s how our calling works; we are doing this as a service to others.

Here are a few ideas to remember when you decide to propose your workshop. First, think beyond one class. There will be plenty of people who want the knowledge you have to offer but cannot attend the workshop for whatever reason. Ideally, if you can present it two or three times over a year, in a couple different locations, the opportunity will be open to many more Instructors who want to learn. Second, try to incorporate as much “hands-on” into your workshop as possible. Classroom time is essential, but too much can be a negative. Get the participants out of their seats and doing something, much as we design Hunter Education classes. Third, and perhaps most important, give the participants something to take with them as a teaching tool (hand-outs, a CD with slides, or a modified lesson plan) so they can apply what they learn to a Hunter Education class in the future. Last, put your heart and soul into it. This is your passion. Bring all your gadgets, gizmos, toys and examples to class so the participants can see as wide a range as possible for what you are talking about.

You can do this. I know you can, and so do you. Give it a try and put yourself out there for the betterment of the Hunter Education program. Just do me one favor and let me know when you schedule your workshop. I want to learn.

John Solomon is a Life Member of IHEA and has been active with the Hunter Education Program since 2006. He was the Survival columnist for Bowhunter Magazine from 2003 to 2011 and his articles have been published in a dozen national magazines. Currently he teaches Bowhunter Education, Hunter Education Instructor certification, Home Study Instructor, and Survival workshops for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
A pathfinder is one who discovers a new course or way through unexplored territory. Each of us has challenges we face in life and that require us to seek out and discover a new course. For some, the encounters are more challenging than for others.

Many sportsmen and women are fortunate to pursue our hunting dreams. There are some who need added assistance to pursue their outdoor goals. Each year Safari Club International Foundation (SCI Foundation) selects Pathfinder recipients from among a list of nominated hunters. SCI honored two pathfinders at its 2012 Hunter’s Convention who have faced tremendous physical and emotional challenges few will ever experience. These pathfinders have forged a path to success to overcome their physical challenges. They are courageous men with positive Can-do attitudes.

Chris Clasby of Montana and Eric Edmundson from North Carolina are the SCI 2011 Pathfinder recipients. Eric’s disability is the result of injuries while serving our country in time of war. Chris’s disability is the result of a vehicle accident. They experienced major life-changing experiences with tough challenges. Yet, they maintain the close connection to nature they made in their youth. Both enjoy the outdoors and hunting. With the help of their families, friends, and SCI members they are able to pursue their hunting dreams.

As SCI Pathfinders each will be going on a hunt donated by professional hunters. Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris is taking Chris on a 10 day Namibian Hunt in April. Numzaan Safaris is taking Eric on a 10 day South African Hunt this year.

Eric and Chris have been exploring new ways of doing things each and every day with their disabilities, being connected to nature, and staying active in hunting. They truly are Pathfinders. We honor them for their courage and as SCI Pathfinders. We can all help honor pathfinders in our communities. For more information about the SCI Foundation Pathfinder program contact the SCI Foundation Humanitarian Services Department at 520-620-1220.
Voter Education Is Part Of Hunter Education
By Glenn Sapir, NSSF, Director, Editorial Services

Hunters must register, become educated on where candidates stand on hunting and conservation issues and vote!

About 131 million Americans voted in the 2008 presidential election, marking the highest percentage turnout of eligible voters since the 1968 national election. The numbers and records may sound impressive, but it also means that only some 64 percent of eligible voters exercised their right. Almost 75 million eligible citizens did not bother to vote. However, on the bright side, hunters, anglers and other sportsmen do vote in greater numbers than the general voting-eligible population. Nearly one-third of all voters are sportsmen, and 80 percent of them are likely to vote in a presidential election year. Furthermore, sportsmen make up about 20 percent of the population in key “swing states,” such as Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania. Sportsmen are one of the most influential voting blocks in the country. The sportsman’s vote counts!

As a hunter education instructor, you teach the essentials of being a good, responsible citizen afield. In a broader frame of reference, voting is an important part of being a good citizen, and education is as essential in responsible voting as it is in responsible hunting.

Standing before a classroom of impressionable young, and older, people who are aspiring hunters does not give you license to espouse your views on the candidates and the issues. Your position, however, does allow you to encourage your students to intelligently and responsibly exercise their right to vote.

Theodore Roosevelt made an insightful comment along the lines of a citizen doing all he or she could to become a responsible voter: “A vote is like a rifle; its usefulness depends upon the character of the user.”

NSSF is totally supportive of that concept. Simply put, Americans should be encouraged to register to vote, to educate themselves on the candidates and the issues, to urge their friends, family members, colleagues, fellow students and other acquaintances to do the same, and then to cast their vote.

In that regard, NSSF established a www.nssf.org/gunvote, a voter education website where voter registration for any state is facilitated and where voters can learn about candidates and issues of special concern to hunters and shooters.

Data from the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) indicate that more than 17 million people hunted in 2010. The NSGA figures also state that nearly 20 million Americans participated in target shooting in that same year. Taking into account the crossover between hunting and target shooting, NSSF established a total shooting participation of 30,890,000 individuals in 2010.

That’s an impressive number of potential voters—but they are only “potential” until they actually register and vote.

The late Minnesota Congressman Walter H. Judd once said, “People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote—a very different thing.”

Many of your students may feel that their one vote won’t make a difference. One vote has historically decided some significant outcomes. In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England, and four years later one vote cost King Charles I of England his head. On Nov. 8, 1923, members of the recently formed revolutionary political party met to elect their head. By a majority of one vote, Adolph Hitler became that Nazi Party leader.

Closer to home and in a more modern era, in 2000 the presidential election was decided by a mere 537 votes out of a total of more than 100 million votes. Other examples abound. In 1955 the mayor’s race in Huron, Ohio, was decided by one vote, and in 1959, mayors of Rose Creek and Odin, Minn., were elected by one vote each. In 1994, the U.S. House of Representatives enacted a law banning specific classes of arms as “assault weapons.” It proved to be not only restrictive legislation but also counterproductive in reducing crime. Its margin of passage was one vote. Today, many of the modern sporting rifles banned by that legislation, which long ago “sunsetted,” are among the most popular firearms purchased by Americans, and more and more MSRs are being adopted for hunting use.

The famous British statesman Winston Churchill once said, hopefully facetiously, “The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.”

As an educator with a vision of your responsibilities that go beyond hunting rights and wrongs, you can help create people who will not be the voters Churchill mocked.

Whether you are laying the groundwork for young teens who are future voters or adults currently qualified to participate in the electoral process, you have the ability to inspire people to register and become educated sportsmen. Let www.nssf.org/gunvote be your teacher’s aide.
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Competitors at the top of their game have learned the vital importance of hard focus on their target. The proper visual technique is to pick a specific target or bird and focus intensely on it. If it’s a game bird one’s focus should be on its head (1). On clay targets one should focus on the leading edge (2). This intense focus should be maintained through the delivery of the shot including follow-through. For the hunter this means staying focused on one bird until you see it take the shot and then go after the second bird for a double. Likewise the target shooter should maintain focus on the first target until it starts to break apart or it is clear that it was missed. Using intense specific focus will result in far fewer misses.

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BUILT TO LAST USING ONLY THE HIGHEST QUALITY MATERIALS
Who says hunter education is not the foundation of all great things? The importance and value of a good hunter education class is not just for those who want to start hunting. It’s also for those whose job it is to protect fish and wildlife in the field. Its reach and purpose includes firearm safety in the home, educating the public on why we hunt, and instilling that all-important attitude of respect for fish and wildlife, and the habitats in which they thrive. Hunter education relates to all things hunting, but ultimately teaches so much more about personal responsibility and good stewardship.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Warden Academy offers new cadets a hunter education class. This programming is offered during the first week of the academy, insuring a strong foundation upon which the new wardens will build their careers. The foundation provided to them in hunter education helps them to safely work in the field, understand why they are doing what they do, and helps them relate to those who pursue game in the field.

Some might think most “game wardens-to-be” would already have completed a hunter education course; that is not always the case. Many of the cadets—some already hired as a warden, some hoping to get hired after they complete the academy—may have other outdoor interests besides hunting. Many of them are avid fishermen who spend all their free time on the water. Fishermen are hunters of another sort. They do pursue, just not with a gun or bow. Most are outdoorsmen and women with a passion for the natural world, which is realized in any number of outdoor activities, from fishing to boating and much more.

Typically, when CDFG teaches the class, their instructor corps consists of the Statewide Hunter Education Program Administrator, a couple of district hunter education coordinators and one or more volunteer hunter education instructors. The team teaches together, and uses each other’s strengths to make the class as informative and resourceful as possible for the warden cadets. The instructors bring many tools of the trade, not only to show cadets what is important to pass the hunter education exam, but to help them in their future employment. They showcase firearms and equipment and all the latest technologies that pertain to managing and protecting fish and wildlife in the field.

Hunter education classes, for warden cadets and the public alike, are made possible through a unique partnership
that includes hunters, state and federal agencies, and the manufacturers of sporting goods that hunters purchase and use. Hunting license revenue directly supports CDFG’s hunter education programming. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also distributes excise tax revenue, collected from the sale of sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment, to fish and game agencies to help support hunter education programs. This successful partnership has been functioning for 75 years, since passage of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937.

In California, new wardens are added to the ranks of hunter education instructors. These cadets are not only taught the material to be presented in class, but also the policies and procedures of the CDFG Hunter Education program. This helps them understand what to look for when they attend classes to evaluate instructors and recognize potential weaknesses in the classroom. This gives the Department the eyes and ears needed to help keep hunter education the program it needs be: a course in responsibility and stewardship. Hunter education, as delivered by dedicated professionals in California and all across the U.S., is a great foundation for anyone who cares for the lands and waters we call home.

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**Reader Response**

My name is Ron Weber and I am a long time hunter safety instructor in Rusk County Wisconsin. Normally I enjoy your publication and find it informational and entertaining. I, however, have to express my concerns over two articles I have read in recent issues regarding air guns for deer and coyotes. In both articles, the author recommended head shots at distances up to 50 yards. I would hope that we can all agree that head shots are not a good shot for any firearm, especially out to 50 yards. The risk of wounding is much too great. I would never recommend any student to take any shot other than at the heart/lung vitals area. We have to be careful what we teach, and articles presenting head shots as okay are detrimental to our mission and our sport. Thanks for your time and keep up the good work.

Ron, Thank you for your astute observation. Head shots are definitely not something that should be routinely recommended, particularly when students (many we can assume are beginning shooters as well) are the intended audience. A heart/lung shot should be taught as the preferred shot placement.

—John McKay, IHEA president
SPECIAL INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE
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KNIVES $90 ($85 SAVINGS)
GUN/KNIFE COMBO $489

In 2009, the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) commemorated the 60th Anniversary of hunter education in North America with a collector Henry Golden Boy .22 caliber lever action rifle. The Henry Golden Boy was named the Gun of the Year in 2001 by Guns and Ammo. Supplies are limited.

The IHEA logo, “Celebrating 60 years of Hunter Education” is etched onto the left side of the receiver. A custom design depicting a mentor and a youth, along with “Safe Hunting is No Accident” is engraved onto the right side of the receiver. The custom serial number will indicate which gun in the series you received. For example a serial number of IHEA005 indicates you have the fifth gun out of 250 in this series.

We are running a Special Inventory Clearance Sale on these anniversary guns for the low price of $399 + S/H*. This is a $100 savings! You can save even more if you purchase the anniversary knife as well. Supplies are limited. Order yours before they are all gone!

Call the IHEA at 303-430-7233 to order your gun today and inquire about getting matching edition numbers on the IHEA anniversary gun and knife.

*A $50 shipping and handling fee will be added to each gun shipped to the 50 States. This includes the IHEA’s FFL dealer fee and shipping via FedEx with confirmation to the FFL Dealer of your choice. Any fee your FFL dealer charges will be the sole responsibility of the purchaser. The IHEA can only ship this gun to an FFL dealer.

SPECIAL INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE
60th Anniversary of Hunter Education Commemorative Knife

In 2009, the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) commemorated the 60th Anniversary of hunter education in North America with a collector knife. The anniversary knife is a Browning model 322571. This large drop point hunter knife was designed by Jim Crowell and comes with a top-grain leather sheath. The 5-1/2 inch blade is made from 420HC carbon steel and has a satin finish. The handle is made from stabilized walnut. Only 500 of these knives were ever produced and the IHEA made 250 of these anniversary edition knives available for sale—once again, supplies are limited. The IHEA logo, edition number (X of 250), and “1949-2009 Celebrating 60 years of hunter education” is etched onto the left side of the blade. The knife’s serial number (X of 500) is etched onto the right side of the blade.

We are running a Special Inventory Clearance Sale, and selling these knives for the low price of $90 + S/H*. This is a $85 savings. And you can save even more if you also purchase the anniversary gun. Feel free to shop around. You will not find this knife available anywhere else for less than $250!

Call IHEA at 303-430-7233 to order today and inquire about getting matching edition numbers on the IHEA anniversary gun and knife. *Shipping and handling for the knife is $10 to the 50 states which includes shipping via FedEx with delivery confirmation.

Buy both the anniversary gun and the anniversary knife and you’ll save $185 off the regular pricing. A matching gun/knife set will cost $489 during this Special Inventory Clearance Sale. Plus if you order the gun/knife set, we’ll waive the shipping charge on the knife!! Order yours before they are all gone. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
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NASDAQ: SWHC
My First Turkey Hunt

By Jaden Wolfe, 9 years old

We shot and I got one! That was the first turkey that our family has ever got. My brother missed and he shot again and missed again. Then they flew away.

We tried to see where they landed and we went there but they weren’t there. We saw one go over another hill so we hurried over the hill again and peeked over the top but never saw him. We got out our calls and tried to call for a while but none came.

We went to another area and saw a big group with two toms. So we hid behind a bush. We got ready and then I shot and got the second and last turkey I could shoot. My brother forgot to take his gun off safety but one turkey came running right at us after I shot so he got his gun off safe and he finally got one.

We tried to find another one but we didn’t find one he could shoot. My dad taught us how to dress them. It was so much fun. I hope we can go again next year. I bet our turkeys will be good at Thanksgiving. Dad said we brought home the bacon.

Editor’s Note: I have had the pleasure of personally experiencing the enthusiasm of this avid young hunter as he arrives home after school each day. His home is also the office where his dad and I both work. Jaden will plop down in a chair next to his dad and promptly proceed to distract his dad with “Dad, dad, dad, let’s go hunting dad. D-a-a-a-a-d. You promised we could dad, when are you off work dad? 5:00? How long is it until 5:00?” Then again later. “OK dad, it’s 5:00 now dad, let’s go!” His enthusiasm is certainly encouraging and refreshing!
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- Optional The Game Fresh Spray™, a non-toxic antimicrobial spray that kills food-borne pathogens, including Salmonella and E. coli when used on raw meat and poultry
- Optional KoolerGel™ lasts 30-40% longer than conventional ice thereby saving you $$$ and it’s re-usable

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To order you must call 866-789-6941, these special prices not available online.

Products included in the offer include: Large Trophy Bag Kooler™ Game bag in Tan or Orange; ComboKooler™ in Large, Small, and the 3-pak or 6-pak Combo in Tan or Orange. Special does not apply to any combo bags.
Retired Master Chief Gunner’s Mate (U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Technician/Frogman) Jack Duncan, and his wife Marlene, two of the most successful and prolific shooting instructors and coaches in the country, have won the prestigious 2012 Crosman Friend of Youth Shooting Award. Following Master Chief Duncan’s 43-year military career and marriage to Marlene, they set the standard for dedication and commitment to a lifetime of shooting for thousands of young shooters and their coaches. By dedicating more than 40 years of their lives to teaching the skills necessary to enjoy shooting as a lifetime sport, winning this award establishes them as models for the next generation of shooting teachers and coaches. The Award was presented on January 18 at the 2012 Crosman Corporation International Reception at SHOT Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Annual Crosman Friend of Youth Shooting Award Recognizes:

“An individual or individuals whose commitment to excellence in youth shooter education and dedication to a lifetime of safe shooting has enhanced the future of the sport.”

According to Ken D’Arcy, Crosman president and CEO, Jack and Marlene Duncan embody the lifetime commitment to shooting celebrated by the Award. “It isn’t often that a couple complements one another as well as the Duncans do in their individual and collective contributions to our sport. They have raised the bar for all of us and for their young shooters in staying engaged with shooting’s future. Jack’s Naval discipline and Marlene’s insistence on nothing less than excellent technique in competitive shooting set them apart from the thousands of shooting’s dedicated contributors,” he said. “It is because of people like the Duncans that our sport continues as one of the most popular of all youth activities. The Duncans’ lifelong contribution to shooting is what the Crosman Friend of Youth Shooting Award was established to celebrate,” he said.

“Our future is young people. If shooting is to continue as a leading participant sport, we must engage and retain young shooters,” said D’Arcy. “This year’s Award winners are the embodiment of that imperative. They inspire young shooters to achieve their potential by reaching beyond their grasp. Master Chief Jack Duncan and his wife Marlene are more than worthy recipients of our Award. They are the bellwether for shooting’s future and we need more champions like them,” he said.

Master Chief Gunner’s Mate Jack Duncan began shooting his .22 at nine years old. It was the beginning of a competitive shooting career that spanned high school, scouting, 43 years in the Navy, post-military competition, and a long tenure of teaching and coaching. He became a certified NRA rifle instructor in 1957 and 10 years later, became an NRA instructor trainer. In 1971, he married Marlene, his wife of 40-years. She was a newcomer to shooting, but, in time, became fascinated with the NRA Shooting Sports Sciences program and became a certified coach in multiple disciplines. She too became an NRA instructor trainer and, together, the Duncans have team-trained more than 3,000 shooting instructors.

When the Junior Olympic Shooting Program came about, Jack and Marlene were at the forefront of designing the training and coaching protocols for young shooters. Based on their winning under the Duncan’s coaching, a number of their students won athletic scholarships to the US military and naval academies at West Point and Annapolis, SUNY Maritime and the University of San Francisco, among others.

The Duncans later formed a new rifle program and trained the members of the San Diego Unit of the Naval Reserve Training Corps Rifle and Pistol Team. The Navy Junior ROTC airgun program at Serra High School was their next triumph. They took the school’s formerly last place rifle team to an undefeated season—first in the league—in only one year. Their contributions to the many organizations they helped continued until their retirement in 2010.

Says D’Arcy, “The Duncans have done more to ensure shooting’s future than any couple I’ve encountered in our sport. They are genuine friends of youth shooting and we applaud their spirit and their charisma. From the Navy, to the communities where they’ve lived, to the organizations they’ve made more shooting friendly, we congratulate them on winning the Crosman Friend of Youth Shooting Award and on their lifetime of giving back to our sport. We’re proud to add their names to the Award’s roster.”

For additional information on the annual Crosman Friend of Youth Shooting Award visit the company’s website at www.crosman.com.
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Harness Up For Bino Comfort

By Stephen Ingraham, Birding and Wildlife Observation Specialist, Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, LLC., Edited by Robert J. Kaleta

The longer you spend time in the field in pursuit of game, the heavier and more awkward your binoculars can seem to become. A binocular often starts out feeling like just a pound or so, but after time spent hiking and climbing it suddenly begins to feel like the neck strap is cutting through the back of your neck. What little weight is there becomes a constant reminder. Your chest is sore and you are aggravated from the number of times the binocular has bounced off your sternum as you jumped a log, or stood quickly from a crawl. Let’s not forget to mention the constant chest thumping that gets delivered from all day hunting on horseback.

Binoculars with neck straps are often banged into a fallen log or bounced off a tree as hunters navigate obstacles or especially while making a stalk or low crawl—very often spooking game at the worst possible moment. Another concern with the neck strap is getting up and down a treestand safely and quietly. What you need to eliminate such problems is to try a good Bino-Harness for our next hunt.

The Bino-Harness passes over your shoulders in an “x” pattern away from the neck, putting the weight and strain on the bones and muscles of your shoulders and back area providing much better support and ultimately more comfort. The best harnesses attach to the binos via free sliding fixtures which move up the strap as you raise them to view. With such a system held at eye level there is no strain at all. The straps are continuous, passing through the fixtures and around your back. This means that the binoculars are held much closer in to your chest at all times, no matter what you are doing. This eliminates sternum discomfort and provides a secure, easy way to carry and protect your binoculars as long as you need to be in the field. Harness up for Bino comfort...you will never go back to a neck strap.
Volunteering as a hunter education instructor is a personal commitment and sometimes challenging. Obtaining quality hunter safety and educational materials shouldn’t be. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has been supporting hunter education instructors for almost 50 years.

A longtime supporter of the International Hunter Education Association, NSSF has been in the forefront of developing multimedia hunter safety and education materials. We provide printed and electronic materials for volunteer instructors—most of which is free. And when your students graduate and are looking for places to hunt or for additional information to develop their skills and knowledge, the answers are simply a click away!

Log on to the www.nssf.org and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.

WWW.NSSF.ORG
By Shawn Harper, Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor, St. Joseph, MO

On two January nights in 1973 at age 11, my dad and I attended a Hunter Safety class. The class was a prerequisite to being promoted from hunting partner/game flusher to gun bearing hunting partner. Our game warden presented the NRA Hunter Safety class at the community building because he cared about the community. The 39-year-old, 86-page, black and white Hunter Safety Student Manual is a cherished keepsake. My father passed away six months later.

For the next ten years my grandmother purchased my hunting permits in exchange for a pheasant, a duck, or a goose. During those years two hunting tragedies struck close to home. A neighbor boy killed his dad while crossing a fence with a shotgun. A cousin died after being on life support for a month from a self-inflicted accidental discharge. Thankfully, outdoor safety, gun safety, and muzzle control were deeply instilled in me.

Hunting was a continuation of the bond that my dad built with me, enjoying the outdoors, and providing some meat for my mother and four siblings. Target shooting was another way to bask in memories of my dad, by shooting his guns and cleaning them afterward. The sentimental value of guns passed on is immeasurable. Additionally, the fundamental elements of gun safety are also priceless and have served me well.

I have not hunted in 25 years, but, for two decades being an HE instructor has brought me joy and maintained the bond with my long lost father.

Competition shooting has been my other hobby for 20 years, and when teaching HE classes, students, parents, and kids are encouraged to attend a shooting match as spectators, to observe the diligent practice of gun safety and muzzle control.

HE Instructors do not volunteer their time and talents for the Service Awards. We do it for the rewards. We volunteer in order to help others NOT be a tragedy statistic. We do it to pass on a heritage and passion that was given to us. We do it to share and to pay forward the knowledge and skills that prevent terrible losses and heartache. We do it to promote the American traditions of hunting and the shooting sports. We, HE instructors, cherish the opportunities to be positive role models. We enjoy the fellowship, and we learn from each other. We make a difference, and we improve the image of hunters and shooters. We are shaping the future.

Shawn Harper is also a widely published writer, a public speaker, competitive shooter, certified firearms instructor, and Corrections Officer, and Hunter Education volunteer instructor in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Moultrie Adds “Black Flash”

With Black Flash Technology, the Moultrie M-80 Black emits no visible LED light, allowing for ultimate concealment in the woods. The M-80 Black also easily doubles as a security camera for your cabin, home or hunting property! Even with concealed LEDs, this 5.0 megapixel camera doesn’t compromise nighttime range, lighting up the field out to 50-feet.

Other exciting new features found in the M-80 Black include the New Fast Fire Continuous Shooting Mode, which will capture up to 3 images per second! And New Plot Stalker Hybrid Mode captures images at preset intervals, PLUS images triggered by game!

This and other game-sniffing Moultrie products can be found at your local Gander Mountain store or online at gandermountain.com.

MSRP-$199.99 Cameras will be available Spring 2012.
FINALLY AIRGUNS FOR SERIOUS HunterS

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November 8, 2011, Seattle, WA. Energized from a great weekend with two Hunter Education Instructors, and three Hunter Education students, Focus Group announces another successful hunt for new hunters on Indianhead Ranch, Texas.

The hunt, which can be entered by any student who has taken the International Hunter Education program, is not only paid for and put on by Focus Group and a handful of outstanding sponsors, but also is filmed by Careco TV for broadcast on NBC Sports in 2012 on Americana Outdoors. This year, Focus Group’s Brian Thurston and Leaha Wirth took three students and two instructors to the Indianhead Ranch outside of Del Rio, Texas to learn about introduced species and give these hunters the opportunity to have the hunt of a lifetime. Kaleb Caughron, age 14, from Wills Point, TX; Sam Nelson, age 14 from Boise, ID; and Kristin Burleson, age 20 from Huntsville, AL were the students winning and attending the hunt; Many thanks go out to Sam’s instructor, for encouraging him to enter. Instructors Penny Lee Slagle from Williston, ND and Dennis Corvello from San Lorenzo, CA were the winning volunteer IHEA instructors.

“This is a unique opportunity for our partnership of sponsors to reward first-time hunters and volunteer instructors the opportunity to learn about and hunt often extinct and unique species,” states Brian Thurston, publisher of Hunter’s Handbook. “The knowledge that these winners take away will be shared with friends and family, and the end-all objective is to continue to keep our hunting base energized and motivated to continue hunting. And, without the strong support of our sponsors, this hunt simply would not be possible.”


Hunter’s Handbook is the informational tool that all 750,000 Hunter Education students receive upon completion of their Hunter Education course. It provides students with a “how-to” guide that takes all Hunter Education students beyond mandatory general safety guidelines and offers them additional information on everything from firearms to targets and gear as well as an added emphasis on safety in the field.

For more information on this release, please contact Leaha Wirth via email, leaha@omniseattle.com or call her at (206) 281-1977.
Turkey Jerky From Scott Steel

Turkey makes a perfect starting point for your favorite flavors in this jerky recipe. It is also lower in fat than beef jerky. Feel free to adjust the spices to suit your own tastes or, if you would rather spend your time outdoors instead of in the kitchen, head down to your local grocery store and simply buy a packet of pre-made seasonings. If you do not own a dehydrator, you can use your oven on the lowest setting and leave the oven door slightly ajar for air circulation.

**Prep Time:** 15 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 12 hours  
**Ingredients:**  
- 1 Tablespoon liquid smoke  
- 2 Tablespoons soy sauce  
- 1/4 teaspoon Tabasco sauce, or to taste  
- 1/3 cup Worcestershire sauce  
- 1-1/2 teaspoons mesquite flavoring liquid  
- 2 teaspoons light brown sugar, packed  
- 1 Tablespoon onion powder  
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder  
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt  
- 1 pound turkey meat, sliced thin

**Preparation:** Combine liquid smoke, soy sauce, Tabasco sauce, Worcestershire sauce, mesquite flavoring, onion powder, garlic powder, and kosher salt in a large zip-top bag.

Add turkey strips to the marinade, seal, and squish to coat all the meat. Re-open the bag, squeeze out all the air, re-seal, and refrigerate 12 to 24 hours.

Remove turkey strips from marinade and gently pat off excess moisture with a paper towel. Place strips in a single layer, with space in between, on dehydrator racks. Dehydrate until turkey jerky is leathery and chewy but not crisp enough to snap when bent.

Store jerky in sealed bags in the refrigerator.
Lyman Gives Back To Its Loyal Customers For Over 20 Years

Lyman, the innovation leader for serious shooting enthusiasts, announces their continued dedication to the ‘On-Target Sweepstakes.’ Since 1989, the Lyman ‘On Target Sweepstakes’ has been dedicated to giving back to loyal consumers and is a great way to review new and existing Lyman products.

Prizes. Prizes. Prizes. 2011 brought over 10,000 entries to the sweepstakes and awarded prizes ranging from a Lyman Ideal Model Sharps Rifle to many very popular products such as reloading equipment and tools. “We see this program as a fantastic way to give back to our loyal customers and one that provides a unique opportunity for customers to review our new and full product lines. A customer can either fill out the Sweepstakes form that is included in every print catalog or can go online to www.lyman.com and click on the Sweepstakes block that leads to the ‘more-info’ box. Once there, all they need to do is fill out the request form,” says Lyman’s Marketing Services Manager Liz Friedmann.

Lyman’s history dates back to the late 1880’s when William Lyman, an avid outdoorsman and inventor, created a product that resolved problems with gun sights of his day. Today, 130 years later, Lyman continues to provide and offer best-in-class, innovative tools for serious shooters and reloaders. It’s part of a conglomerate of brands for shooting enthusiasts that also includes: Pachmayr® grips and recoil pads, Trius® traps, and Butch’s Gun Care Products®.

Vice President of Sales and Marketing Rick Ranzing and team look forward to the Sweepstakes. “Each year we have a large waiting list of customers looking for our latest catalog and wanting to see what the new prizes will be. It’s something that we are extremely excited about, especially the day when we pick the winners.” The Lyman ‘On Target Sweepstakes’ winner will be featured on its Internet site throughout 2012. Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of the ‘On-Target Sweepstakes’ and plans are already underway for that grand celebration.

Lyman strongly supports the IHHEA Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal and looks forward to servicing the shooting sports for generations to come. For more information on this release, please contact Liz Friedmann via email at efriedmann@cshore.com or 800-632-2020.

Teaching Tip

By Earl and Donna Timpke, Logan, UT

My wife and I teach the Traditional Hunter Education Class on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To keep students alert my wife prepared questions (similar to the HE manual, Chapter Review) on topics such as ethics, methods, safety, and survival.

Each question goes in a hat. At the start of class, we divide students into two teams. About every 15 minutes we draw a question (alternating teams). A student is selected from raised hands (we don’t want the same person answering every question). Correct answers earn one point and incorrect answers mean the question goes to the opposing team.

At the end of the final day the winning team members each receive a prize (pretzels, chips, survival bar, avoiding candy or nuts in case someone suffers from diabetes or allergies).
To assist certified NRA, Hunter Safety, Appleseed, 4-H, Scouting and state instructors in their efforts to provide quality firearms safety training, Ruger offers the following products for purchase at a special discount:

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<td>KS9-141</td>
<td>4:20&quot;</td>
<td>Adjustable</td>
<td>Satin Stainless</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>.357 Mag.</td>
<td>$472.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08814</td>
<td>RS-4700</td>
<td>7:00&quot;</td>
<td>Adjustable</td>
<td>Satin Stainless</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>.44 Mag.</td>
<td>$453.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sales Tax (if shipping to Arizona): 9.30%
Sales Tax (if shipping to Connecticut): 6.35%

**PLEASE ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY** (Subject to Availability)

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Daytime Phone:
Email:

I agree these firearms are for training only and are not to be resold.

Signature:

To order, (1) complete the form, (2) attach a check or money order for the entire amount, (3) provide a copy of your NRA, Hunter Safety, Appleseed or other instructor certification and (4) provide a copy of a Federal Firearms License (FFL) with an original signature. Prices include Federal Excise Tax and are subject to change. Up to 10 firearms may be purchased by an instructor. Firearms are for training purposes only and are not to be resold. **NOTE:** All firearms are shipped overnight. All firearms will be sent to address on the FFL. Some firearms may not be available in some states and locales. Offer is subject to applicable state, federal and local laws. Product will ship when available. Discontinued products may not be available. All orders shipped freight prepaid, F.O.B. seller’s place of business, with title and risk of loss passing to purchaser upon delivery of the firearms to the carrier. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to provide insurance for the firearms in transit, it desired. 

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THE UNPREPARED MAN'S GUIDE TO HUNTING

THE ACORN REVOLVER

A popular ammunition among the unprepared, acorns are both plentiful and aerodynamic, but harnessing their full power requires some creative engineering. Look no further than the Acorn Revolver.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Manual grade school pencil sharpener
Plastic spoon (or spork)
No. 2 pencil
Acorns

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wedge spoon handle into hole using no. 2 pencil
2. Grasping the revolver's base, pull back spoon and head shot
3. Aim and release spoon to fire

NOTE

In case of severe hunger, ammunition may be eaten.

IF ACORN BULLET

Grip Case / "not mud"
Shell Projects
Nose

DON'T BE THAT GUY. Go to Gander Mountain and get the best gear for your next outdoor adventure - from great brands like Roger, Remington, and Savage Arms. Buy, sell, or trade at one of our 154 stores, or shop our entire selection of firearms at GanderMtn.com.